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***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

<i>Group:</i>	Unknown	}
<i>Confirmation No.:</i>	Unknown	}
<i>Application No.:</i>	Unknown	}
<i>Invention:</i>	SOFT TISSUE LOCKING DEVICE	}
<i>Applicant:</i>	Schwartz et al	}
<i>Filed:</i>	January 15, 2004 (herewith)	}
<i>Attorney Docket:</i>	26502-73682	}
<i>Examiner:</i>	Unknown	}

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This statement is filed in the application identified above pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. No representation is intended that a complete search has been made of the prior art or that no better art references than listed below are available. The filing of this Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56(b).

Listed references AA to AX were cited during prosecution of parent U.S. Application Serial No. 10/186,805, filed July 1, 2002, which is relied upon for an earlier filing

date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Therefore, copies of the references are not required pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d). The remaining references are enclosed.

None of the cited art is believed to disclose or suggest the invention recited in the claims of the above-identified application. It is therefore believed that the claimed invention is patentably distinguishable over these references.

Please charge any fees that might be due in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to our Deposit Account No. 10-0435, with reference to our matter 26502-73682. An extra copy of this Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,  
BARNES & THORNBURG



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Reg. No. 42,088

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT				ATTY. DOCKET NO. 26502--73682		SERIAL No. Unknown			
				APPLICANT Schwartz et al.					
				FILING DATE January 15, 2004		GROUP Unknown			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS									
*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate		
	AA	4,741,330	May 3, 1988	Hayhurst					
	AB	4,976,715	Dec. 11, 1990	Bays et al.					
	AC	RE 34,021	Aug. 4, 1992	Mueller et al.					
	AD	5,269,809	Dec. 14, 1993	Hayhurst et al.					
	AE	5,620,691	May 28, 1996	Branch					
	AF	5,630,824	May 20, 1997	Hart					
	AG	3,664,345	May 1972	Dabbs et al.					
	AH	3,976,079	August 1976	Samuels et al.					
	AI	4,245,374	Jan. 1981	Suzuki					
	AJ	6,066,160	May 2000	Colvin et al.					
	AK								
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS									
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No		
	AL								
	AM								
	AN								
	AO								
	AP								
OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)									
	AR	O'Mera, Patrick, "The Basic Science of Meniscus Repair," <i>Orthopaedic Review</i> , pp. 681-686, (June 1993)							
	AS	Clearfix Screw Advertisement, <i>Innovasive Devices, Inc.</i> , (1998)							
	AT	Winters and Justin, "Clearfix Meniscal Screw," <i>Innovative Devices, Inc.</i> (1998)							
	AU	Surgical Dynamics, Meniscal Stapler Advertisement, (1997)							
	AV	Bionix Implants, Meniscus Arrow Advertisement, (1996)							
	AW	Instrument Makar, Inc., Meniscus Mender II Advertisement, (1989)							
	AX	William G. Clancy, Jr., M.D., and Ben K. Graf, M.D., "Arthroscopic Meniscal Repair," <i>ACUFEX Microsurgical, Inc. Advertisement</i> , (1988)							
	AY								
	AZ								
Examiner						Date Considered			
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.									

BASED ON FORM PTO 1449

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				FILING DATE January 15, 2004			GROUP Unknown	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate	
	BA	4,669,473	June 2, 1987	Richards, et al.				
	BB	4,750,492	June 14, 1988	Jacobs				
	BC	5,258,015	Nov. 2, 1993	Li, et al.				
	BD	5,320,633	June 14, 1994	Allen, et al.				
	BE	5,594,747	Sep. 21, 1999	Clark				
	BF	5,626,614	May 6, 1997	Hart				
	BG	5,725,556	Mar. 10, 1998	Moser, et al.				
	BH	5,861,004	Jan. 19, 1999	Kensey, et al.				
	BI	6,010,525	Jan. 4, 2000	Bonutti, et al.				
	BJ							
	BK							
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No	
	BL	0 632 999 A1	June 30, 1994	Europe				
	BM							
	BN							
	BO							
	BP							
OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)								
	BR							
	BS							
	BT							
	BU							
	BV							
	BW							
	BX							
	BY							
	BZ							
Examiner						Date Considered		
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